

SITUATION REPORT NO. 8
INCIDENT NO. 2001- 005
DATE: April 11, 2001 TIME: 1:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: In Barnes County, three people were injured when a road in Minnie Lake Township collapsed underneath their car. The accident victims were transported by ambulance to a Fargo hospital. One victim suffered a head injury.
3. DAMAGES: Flash Flood watches are in effect for eastern and portions of south central North Dakota as another potentially heavy rain event moves into the state today. The storm is tracking north and northeast out of South Dakota and will bring an estimated 1.5 inches of rain to the southern portion of the Red River Valley during the next 24 hours.

Flood warnings remain in effect for the Red River of North. The river at Wahpeton remains steady at 16.2 feet and is expected to rise to 19 to 20 feet on April 15. The river measured 32.3 feet at Fargo where it is expected to crest at 37 to 38 feet on April 16-17. In Grand Forks, the river rose to 44.2 feet. Latest projections by the National Weather Service (NWS) call for a crest at 48 to 50 feet on April 18-19. Downstream, Red River levels at Drayton measured 36.35 feet. The river at Drayton may rise to 42 to 43 feet by April 21-22.

In Cass County, the city of Argusville is struggling to maintain its sanitary sewer system. Five feet of water inundated a manhole outside the city's ring dike. At least one homeowner has experienced sewer backup. Cass County Emergency Management referred the homeowner to the local public health unit for cleanup information. Preliminary information indicates that breakouts along the Wild Rice are not likely to occur.

Water is flowing over roadways at approximately 15 locations in Barnes County. Floodwaters have damaged at least 16 culverts and adjoining roadways. Two other culverts sunk when water washed out the ground underneath them. At least one-half of a roadway in Oriska Township was washed out. A bridge in Valley City was diked to prevent travel and to help contain a creek within its bed. A home was destroyed after three walls collapsed, taking out sewer, water, phone and electrical services.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) reported that water is encroaching on N.D. Highway 127 at mile post 18, south of Wahpeton. North of Fargo, the Harwood rest areas along I-29 remain closed as does the Mapleton Truck Parking area on I-94. Floodwaters are encroaching on the southbound lanes of I-29 at mile point 80. Water is flowing over N.D. Highway 3 near mile post 116 north of Tuttle. Water has risen to shoulder level along N.D. Highway 14, approximately 4.5 miles south of Anamoose. Water is flowing over N.D. Highway 200, one mile east of Hurdsfield, between mile posts 257 and 258.

Along the Red River in Walsh County, some farm family members have temporarily relocated while others remain to operate pumps. Red River floodwaters overtopped agricultural dikes and flowed into nearby farmland. Farmers are concerned about the integrity of their ring dikes, which have softened now that they no longer contain frost. The Red River is also flowing over County Road 2 about one-half mile north of U.S. Highway 54. The road has been closed for eight miles, from County Road 15 to U.S. Highway 54. Most township roads in Walshville Township, located east of I-29, are closed. Roads have also been closed in Grafton and Glenwood Township. The Forest River is encroaching on County Road 15 between the city of Warsaw and I-29.

In Ramsey County, water flow is occurring at a high rate in coulees leading into Devils Lake. Those coulees include Edmore, Starkweather, St. Joe and Mauvais, which is flowing over the Bisbee Dam. A road in Degroat Township has been closed due to high water, and a culvert washout occurred south of the Starkweather Coulee.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross are providing meals to volunteer sandbaggers in the Fargo area.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Officials for city of Fargo and the St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) plan to increase the height of levees to 38.5 feet, based on the latest projections that the Red River could rise to 37 to 38 feet. Near the Sheyenne River, sandbags have been placed around most flood-threatened homes. Sandbagging efforts are underway in Chrisan Estates and Cass County cities. The city of North River in Cass County received four-inch diesel pumps and one crisafulli pump from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The N.D. DOT is providing support to the city of Wahpeton with a six-inch pump that may be needed if local flooding develops within the city. DOT crews sent two variable message boards to the city Grand Forks for road closures. Crews also transported a crisafulli pump from Valley City to Harwood.

On April 10, the N.D. National Guard personnel transported 113,000 sandbags from Camp Gilbert C. Grafton in Devils Lake to the city of Grand Forks. The National Guard has issued an order to transport the Camp's remaining sandbag supply to Grand Forks. A second order has been issued to transport sandbags owned by the St. Paul District of the USACE from the Fargo area to Grand Forks.

North Dakota Emergency Management coordinated with the USACE to arrange for a flight pump for the city of Pembina.

The Walsh County Commission issued an emergency declaration on April 10. Walsh County Highway Dept hauled rock and fill to try to maintain a section of County Road 2 for local use. Crews also hauled gravel to a culvert that was washing out in Norton Township downstream from the small watershed dams on the Forest River. An additional 10 yards of sand and 1,000 bags were delivered to rural residents on April 10. The Walsh County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is operating from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., or as needed.

The Barnes County Emergency Manager has issued news releases advising motorists to use caution and asking citizens to report road damages to township officers.

In Cass County, emergency declarations have been issued by the cities of North River, Oxbow and Briarwood. In Richland County, the city of Abercrombie issued an emergency declaration.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: In addition to the USACE, North Dakota Emergency Management, State Water Commission, N.D. DOT, Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Geological Survey and National Guard officials have been on-site in several areas.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director